



GIBSON MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
FREDERICTON, N.B.

December 17, 2023

10:00am

Third Sunday of Advent – JOY

CAROL SING AND MUSIC CELEBRATION SERVICE

PRELUDE: What Child is This

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOY

LIGHTING OF THE RAINBOW & THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Candle reading

L: This third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus’ birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy isn’t dependent on what is going on in our life, in our world, or the people that we are with. It doesn’t depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. Our joy comes from you. That joy that flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing.

P: “Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again, rejoice!”

Hope is a Star vs 3

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,

and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Good friends, Rejoice. God is with you.

P: Even though we are imperfect, still God is with us.

L: Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God's works.

P: Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

L: Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,

P: for great is the Holy One in our midst, blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.

OPENING PRAYER: (in unison)

Joyful God, we give you thanks for the ways you renew us with joy, and for the joy we can bring to each other. We ask that in this Advent time of preparation, we may glimpse your gladness, and hear your voice singing over us.

BELLS

CHILDREN'S STORY - The Christmas Bells

Jingle Bells

Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh, hey
Jingle bells, jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way
Bells on bobtails ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
 Their old familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet the words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
 The belfries of all Christendom
 Had rolled along th'unbroken song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
 "There is no peace on earth," I said,
 "For hate is strong, and mocks the song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
 "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
 The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
 With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
 The world revolved from night to day
 A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
 Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Carol of the Bells – *Heather Fyffe*

ANGELS

READING: Luke 2: 1-14

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King:
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with th'angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of the Virgin's womb:
 veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail th'incarnate Deity,
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise us from the earth,
 born to give us second birth.
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King"

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
 sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply
 echoing their joyous strains:
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 What the gladsome tidings be
 which inspire your heav'nly song?
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
 Him whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee
 Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Angels' Carol - *Alex Good and Caileigh Sullivan*

STAR

READING: The First Christmas

The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel did say
 was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
 in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
 shining in the east beyond them far;
 and to the earth it gave great light,
 and so it continued both day and night.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
 three wise men came from country far;
 to seek for a king was their intent,
 and to follow the star wherever it went.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;
 o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
 and there it did both stop and stay,
 right over the place where Jesus lay.
 Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
 born is the King of Israel.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are;
 bearing gifts we traverse afar,
 field and fountain, moor and mountain,
 following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
 star with royal beauty bright,
 westward leading, still proceeding,
 guide us to thy perfect light.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
 the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

O Holy Night: *Alex Good*

OFFERTORY and PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known;
Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.**

VU 541

OFFERTORY PRAYER: *I Saw Three Ships – Heather Fyffe*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

P E A C E

READING: Peace: The Essence of the Christmas Message

The Peace Carol - Libby and Brian Cassidy

Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth!

PASTORAL BLESSING

Be people of joy.
Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.
Share joy by seeing the good in each other.
Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.
Share joy by praying for our world.
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet.

CHORAL BLESSING: Go Now In Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

POSTLUDE - Go Tell it on the Mountain

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ORGANIST: | HEATHER FYFFE |
| SONG LEADERS: | ALEX GOOD & CAILEIGH SULLIVAN |
| VIOLIN: | LIBBY CASSIDY |
| GITAR: | BRIAN CASSIDY |
| ZOOM: | BRIAN CAIL |
| OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: | NATALIE WALKER |
| CUSTODIAN: | BRIAN BUBAR |

Office Hours: Monday - Friday; 8:30am - noon and 1pm - 3pm
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CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION:

Good morning and welcome to **EVERYONE**. May this worship service be a blessing in your day as we worship together in-service or by Zoom. *Everyone is invited to share in a coffee/tea, conversation and POTLUCK in the hall following the service! There will be a special visitor as well!*

A donation has been made *to the Benevolent Fund* in loving memory of **Bob Jewett** by *Judy Jewett & Family*.

Upcoming Services and Meetings:

Today	10:00am	3rd of Advent: Joy Christmas Carol Sing / Memorial Tree (insert) / Joint Service with FHUC / Potluck / Special Visitor
December 24	4:00pm	4th of Advent: Love Christmas Eve Service
December 31	11:30am	Joint Service at Forest Hill United

Christmas Office Hours:

Please note that the office will be closed December 26th through to January 2nd for holidays.

Offering envelopes for the New Year will be available in the narthex for pick up. If you would rather give your offerings via PRA (*Pre-Authorized Remittance*), please contact the office.

Worship Committee:

Each week we require congregation members to help **greet and serve coffee**. Everyone is welcome to sign up by the office for this volunteer opportunity. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

Members of Our Church Family Will Be Playing in the Following Upcoming Musical Events:

December 22nd, 2pm and 7:30pm, December 23rd, 2pm - **Home for Christmas: Fredericton's Holiday Celebration**. The Fredericton Playhouse (686 Queen Street). Tickets \$25-43 through the Playhouse.

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This year there is a **total of 190 bulbs lit** on our Memorial Celebration Tree! Thank you to all who contributed in making this tree shine so brightly. As well, a special 'thank you' to Donald Scott for so generously donating our tree each year! May all who see this special tree feel the **HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE** of the Advent and Christmas Season!



*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year*

**GIBSON MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH
MEMORIAL/CELEBRATION TREE LIGHTING 2023**

IN MEMORY OF

BY

Carol Alexander

Wayne Alexander

Deceased Family Members & Friends

Richard & Margaret Allen

*Alvin & Mary Dodds
Gerald & Millie Boone*

Doug & Ellen Boone

*Cleveland & Alice Jagoe, Parents
John D & Veronica Bowie, Parents
Mary Jagoe*

Albert & Dawn Bowie

*James Cail, Brian's Dad
Wilhelm Wagner, Marliese's Dad*

Brian & Marliese Cail

Arden Calhoun

Hallie Cameron

*Susan Chase, Daughter
Erica Bawn, Sally's Brother
Grace & Bev Bawn, Sally's Parents
Ernest & Velma Chase, Bob's Parents
Muriel Gorman, Bob's Sister
Jean Wisriewski, Bob's Sister
Rheté Dorcas & Phyl Burpee, Sally's Aunts*

Robert & Sally Chase

Malcolm & Louise Daley

Marsha & Doug Daley

*Jim and Ruth Elliott
Lloyd Delong
Bonnie Delong*

Gwen Delong

IN MEMORY OF**BY**

*Alvin & Mary Dodds
Gerald & Millie Boone
Deceased Family Members*

Susan Dodds

*Keith & Gyda Scott, Parents
Mike & Thelma Donovan, Parents
Davida Scott*

Lori & Mike Donovan

Doug Fletcher, Husband

Penny Fletcher

*Stewart Harding
Mr. & Mrs. HC Harding
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Warman*

Wanda Harding & Family

*Leland & Gertrude Henry, Parents
Lawrence Durling, Cousin*

Jean Henry

*Leland & Gertrude Henry, Parents
Alton & Betty Fletcher, Parents
Lawrence Durling, Lorne's Cousin*

Lorne & Lanna Henry

*Bob Jewett, Husband
Deceased Family Members
Lyman Coy, Family Friend & Godfather to Stacey*

Judy Jewett and Family

*The Johnson Family
The Pyne Family*

Diane Johnson

Dan & Ruby Driscoll, Parents

Maureen Keillor

*Ralph & Audrey Kennedy, Parents
Porter & Thelma Smith, Carol's Parents
Leonard Smith, Carol's Brother
Jill Bellows, Joe's Niece
Dale McMullen, Joe's Brother-in-Law*

Joe & Carol Kennedy

IN MEMORY OF**BY**

*Enis Merritt, Husband of Freda Merritt
& Father of Marie Lewis
Allan Merritt, Son of Freda Merritt & Brother of Marie Lewis*

Marie Lewis

*Edgar & Maude Hierlihy, Parents
Henry & Nellie Martin, Parents*

Marson & Lois Martin

*Our Parents:
Duncan & Margaret Morrison
Bryon & Lorna MacKenzie
David's Sister, Barbara Joyce
David's Brother, Jimmy Morrison
Barbara's sister, Carol MacMillan
Barbara's brother, Robert Mackenzie
Uncle & Aunt, Robert B. & Lena (Mackenzie) Harvey
Mina MacKenzie*

Barbara & David Morrison

*Darren O'Donnell
Jack & Regina McKay
Monna & Garnet O'Donnell*

Fred & Mavis O'Donnell

*Boyd & Helen MacTavish, Parents
Bert Worthen
Families of the MacTavish's & Worthen's*

Nancy O'Neill

Beloved Family & Friends

Hazel Pike

*Paul Seymour, Husband
Our Parents
Kaitlin, Granddaughter
Karen Garrett, Sister*

Marilyn Seymour

IN MEMORY OF

BY

IN CELEBRATION OF:

BY

*Phillip Barton
Kelvin Wood
Jim & Gladys Reicker, Hazel's Parents
Hollie & Ida Stairs, Rod's Parents
Jean Stairs Fox, Rod's Sister*

Rod & Hazel Stairs

Our Family & Friends

Richard & Margaret Allen

*Grandchildren: Taylor,
Kylee, Caden, Thomas,
Alex, Abby and Kenzie*

Chris & Lynn Banks

*Shirley Pond, Sister-in-Law
Brenda Christen, Niece
Deborah Christen, Niece
Arden Calhoun, Brother
James Calhoun, Brother*

Roxanne Stewart

*Rod & Hazel Stairs, Parents
Joan Sabeau, Parent
Ray, Finn and Sunnie, Grandchildren*

Valerie Barton & Llyod Dutcher

Family

Enid Beckwith

*Peter Snowball, Husband
Edgar & Grace Camp
Bob, Alvin & Terry Camp, Brothers
Sandra Foster, Sister*

Dorothy Snowball

*Our Grandchildren:
Stella & Owen Sharpe
Molly and Wyatt Doucette*

Doug & Ellen Boone

*The Birth of Riley Eleanor Bowie,
First Grandchild*

Albert & Dawn Bowie

Nellie and Ralph Titus

Thelma and Fred Titus

Family & Friends

Brian & Marliese Cail

*Lorenzo Porter, Joy's Father
Frank Veno, Brian's Father*

Brian & Joy Veno

Our Family

Doug & Marsha Daley

*Maurice Wetmore
Eileen Wetmore*

Noreen Wetmore

Jennie & Alexa Donovan, Daughters

Lori & Mike Donovan

Bruce Wishart & Deceased Family Members

Edna Wishart

*Elizabeth McIntosh on her Graduation in June
From Fort Erie International Academy, Ontario
Nancy Worthen O'Neil & Ron O'Neill on their Marriage on September
30, 2023*

Jean Henry

Our Children & Grandchildren

Lorne & Lanna Henry



IN CELEBRATION OF:

BY

Our Grandchildren:

Sophia & Jamie Fairweather

Connor Hamlyn

50th Wedding Anniversary on October 5th

James & Maureen Keillor

Mary Kennedy, Granddaughter

Jacob Kennedy, Grandson

Joe & Carol Kennedy

Our 4 Granddaughters:

Alexi, Sophie, Miranda & Amelia

Glenn & Audrey Kitchen

Family

Marson & Lois Martin

Trudy O'Donnell

Ava & Sophia Lace

Owen O'Donnell

Mavis & Fred O'Donnell

Grandchildren: Brooklyn Sutherland,

Ashley Sutherland

Lilia O'Neill

Ron O'Neill

Grandchildren: Lily & Gracie Sheppard

Jagger & Kayce Worthen

Nancy O'Neill

My Family

Marilyn Seymour

Peter Snowball's December Birthday

Dorothy Snowball

Alexi & Sophie Walker, Daughters

Glenn & Audrey Kitchen, Parents

Shelley Kitchen, Sister

Natalie Walker

Owen, Ian & Andrew Wishart, Grandsons in Calgary

Emily, Granddaughter in Australia

Edna Wishart